

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-14 EA-12 NEA-10
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FMC-02
INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-07 AID-05 CEQ-01
SOE-02 EPA-04 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05 PM-05 USIA-15
SS-15 SP-02 DOE-11 INT-05 /181 W
-----001383 022330Z /64

R 311344Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6228
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA

UNCLAS LAGOS 01260

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG, AORG, EWWT, IMCO, NI
SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVES ON TANKER SAFETY AND POLLUTION
PREVENTION: PREPARATIONS FOR PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE IN
LONDON, FEB 6-17, 1978

REF: 77 STATE 296444

1. NIGERIA WILL PROBABLY SUPPORT THE U.S. PACKAGE OF SIX OIL POLLUTION PROPOSALS AT THE UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL MARITIME CONSULTATIVE ORG (IMCO) PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE. SENIOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY DR. RAPU TOLD EMBOKF THAT HE WAS RECOMMENDING SUPPORT FOR OUR POSITION SINCE WE NOW ONLY ASK THAT NEW VESSELS BE FITTED AGAINST OIL POLLUTION AND DO NOT ASK THAT EXISTING TANKERS BE RETROFITTED.

2. RAPU SAID THAT THE ONLY CONTROVERSIAL PROPOSALS ARE THOSE DEALING WITH DOUBLE BOTTOMS, SEGREGATED BALLAST, AND INERT GAS SYSTEMS. HE HAS SOME QUESTIONS ON THESE PROPOSALS BUT,
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SAID HE WOULD HAVE THEM ANSWERED AT THE CONFERENCE. FOR EXAMPLE HE ASKED IF IT WAS NOT TRUE THAT DOUBLE BOTTOMS SPEED UP THE TIME IT TAKES A TANKER TO SINK. HE SAID THAT A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION HAD BEEN TO SEE HIM AND ASKED FOR HIS SUPPORT ON A QUOTE CRUDE OIL WASHING TECHNIQUE UNQUOTE. RAPU WAS NOT CERTAIN IF THIS WAS A SUBSTITUTE FOR A SEGREGATED BALLAST SYSTEM AND WHETHER THE

US COULD SUPPORT IT. HE SEEMED TO THINK THAT IF THE CRUDE OIL WASHINGTON TECHNIQUE WERE ADOPTED QUOTE YOU WOULD DEFINITELY HAVE AN INERT GAS SYSTEM UNQUOTE. INDIRECTLY, RAPU QUESTIONED THE NECESSITY OF U.S. PROPOSALS WHEN HE POINTED OUT THAT LESS THAN PERCENT OF OIL RELEASED INTO OCEAN WAS CAUSED BY TANKER ACCIDENTS.

3. RAPU SEEMED WELL AWARE OF U.S. PROPOSALS AND CONTRARY TO PARA 6 REFTEL SAID THAT NIGERIA HAD DEFINITELY ATTENDED DEC. 77 MEETING. RAPU WHO RECEIVED HIS DEOCTORATE IN PSYCHOLOGY IN OHIO AND TAUGHT IN WASH DC WILL ATTEND FEB CONFERENCE AND ALHAJI WALI, SECRETARY MIN TRANS WILL HEAD NIGERIAN DELEGATION. EMBASSY ONLY ABLE TO CONTACT RAPU AFTER SEVERAL CALLS SINCE HE HAS BEEN WORKING NEARLY ALL DAY EVERY DAY ON PORTS DE-CONGESTION COMMITTEE FOR LAST SEVERAL WEEKS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SAFETY, POLLUTION, CARGO SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LAGOS01260
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780051-1008
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978014/aaaaadbk.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 721ac7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 77 STATE 296444
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3739904
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVES ON TANKER SAFETY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION: PREPARATIONS FOR PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE IN LONDON, FEB 6-17, 1978
TAGS: PORG, AORG, EWWT, NI, IMCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/721ac7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014